

TO EVANGELIZE AMERICA.

THE CHURCH AND THE COLLEGE.

IN HAND.

AN ENTIRE DAY SPENT BY THE GENERAL

SEMBLY IN DISCUSSING MATTERS RELAT-
ING TO THE WELFARE OF THIS COUN-
TRY-TWO ASPECTS OF THE
SOUTHERN QUESTION TO
BE PRESENTED!

The General Assembly yesterday discussed matters quite as important as any that had been before it on previous days, but happily no one expected to be initiated upon this fact. The day was occupied in topics national in their character, and while no one raised the cry of "America for Americans," all the speakers seemed impressed with the urgent need that there is to secure a foothold for religion in the West. And not for the church alone, but for the school as well.

"Home Missions" occupied the greater part of the forenoon and all the evening. The Board, which has charge of this department, has proved

the right to appeal to the practical sympathy of the Church. For eighty-seven years it has been prosecuting a vigorous and successful work. Abundant testimony to this fact was borne yesterday by pastors and elders from the Western part of the country. In some States only one or two of the hundreds of flourishing Presbyterian churches were to start without aid from this Board. None is its work confined to the Western half of the continent. There are 518 Presbyterian churches in the large and vigorous synods of New-York, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Indiana and Michigan; not all vacant from their own feebleness, but presumably largely from this cause! To look at it in another light, there are 354 churches in these synods that have less than thirty members each. Yet with a small number thirty is to constitute a self-sustaining church. No one can think of the vastness and importance of the four new States without a thrill. Only a few years ago there was not one Presbyterian church in the entire territory of Dakota; to-day there are 104 churches, eight Presbyteries and four synods. This missionary work among the Mormons, in the South in the cities, among the people of foreign birth

The Board of Aid for Colleges and Academies is doing an admirable work in the West where

its operations are principally confined. It has only been in existence a few years, but its influence is being felt throughout the Church. The quote from the report of the Standing Committee: "The closing years of the first century of our Church have given us no better legacy than the organization of this board. The wonder is that ninety-four years were allowed to pass without any concerted efforts of this nature. Much was indeed done by Presbyterians from the beginning, but in the cause of higher education, but it was done in a sporadic way, without the official or united action of the Church." The truth of the old Persian proverb has always

would have in the life of a nation you must pass into the schools, but until the year 1883, when this board was established, the Church gave no organic expression of its high estimate of the value of schools and colleges. For sixty-six years we had our annual 'day of prayer for colleges and schools,' but the praying was not matched with concerted working. We enter upon the new century with this board as the organic expression of the sentiment of our Church of the subject of

education, a expression which corresponds to and justifies our established concert of prayer." Last year thirty-six institutions were aided by the board.

Connected closely with the work done by the oldest and the youngest organizations of the Assembly was the report on "Immigrant Popula-

tion," adopted after a little quibbling over the recommendations made by the committee. Organization is said to be the need of the Church. Not a new board, but some systematic effort of the Church by which the Board of Home Missions can be enabled to help more effectively the advancement of the work, was thought to be sufficient to meet the demand. It was decided that when a new secretary of this Board is appointed he shall devote his time chiefly to the immigrant population. One of his requirements must be his ability to preach in German.

Four topics are settled upon for to-day. At 9:30 a. m., immediately after the devotional exercises, the Committee on Conference with the Committee from the Southern Assembly is expected to complete its report. It is probable that the recommendations of the committee suggesting co-operation with the Southern brethren will be adopted without debate, although one or

two may speak in behalf of the minority report submitted by Samuel M. Breckenridge, of St. Louis. At 10 a. m. Foreign Missions will be discussed. The Board will consume the remainder of the day.

discussed. This Board will consume the remainder of the forenoon. At 2:30 p. m., the special committee on the Freedmen's Board will again move the adoption of the fourth recommendation. The Board of Publication and Sunday-school will be discussed at 3 o'clock. In the evening "Foreign Missions" will be the subject of the popular meeting to be held in the Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church.

MISSION WORK IN THE WEST.

EIGHTYSEVEN YEARS OF USEFULNESS.

THE HOME BOARD PRESENTS A LONG REPORT
ON ITS VARIOUS LINES OF WORK.

The oldest and the youngest, babies and the aged, were presented on the floor of the Assembly yesterday. The one that aids colleges and academics is only six years old, and the one that carries on the mission work through the land is nearly as old as the century. The eighty-seventh annual report opened with a note of praise for the mercies that have been received during the year. The note is next made of the sudden death of one of the members of the Board, Dr. Alfred Newman, of Orange, N. J. Seven missionaries have also died, but there are still 106 more missionaries on the list this year than there were last year. The reports add, however:

We do not regard this fact as any evidence of prosperity: one evidence of prosperity is the number of churches, and the number of people, that are being sustained by our supporting. But we are compelled, year by year, to report that a smaller number become self-sustaining. We are also compelled to report that we are unable to call the attention of the presbytery to this subject. We are often told with regard to certain presbyteries that they have a large number of churches that ought to be independent.

board are still drawing from its treasury. While we are continually needing more money than we can obtain, we desire to remind the presbyteries that what they can save us by urging self-support will add by so much to carry our work into "the regions beyond," where it is so much needed. Urge the churches to assume self-support, so that they may thereby help the feeble and the destitute.

In other respects, to a very large extent, everything has been encouraging. The country has been prosperous; the seasons, particularly the winter season, have been unusually pleasant; missionaries have been able to keep their appointments, and the people to attend religious services, even where, as in so many cases, they have been protracted through many days. Meanwhile God has given the people "the hearing ear." The missionaries declare that it is easy to preach to them when the people wish to hear, and that over-

where, even in places most hardened and neglected, the people have shown a disposition to hear and heed the Gospel call. Many souls have been converted, many churches have been organized, and many others have been strengthened and enlarged.

THE WORK IN THE OLDER STATES.
Mission work is not wholly confined to the West
and South, as is popularly supposed. From all